

Peoples Bank was the first savings and loan association to ever receive a federal charter in East Chicago after the Great Depression. In the 1950s, the bank played an integral role in assisting former servicemen to build or purchase homes through G.I. Loans. At this time, Peoples Bank expanded its access to the Northwest Indiana community by moving into a multi-office operation. The Woodmar section of Hammond was chosen as the second office location along Indianapolis Boulevard.

It was during the 1960s that Peoples Bank added another branch location in Merrillville. Due to the success of these initial offices, additional branches were established in the area including Dyer, Munster, Schererville, and a second Merrillville office. In the year 2000, Peoples Bank opened its eighth branch location in Hobart.

Peoples Bank's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Mr. David Bochnowski, has served as the leader for the organization since 1981, after serving on the board since 1977. Through his guidance, along with all the hard work of the staff, Peoples Bank has continued to be an active force in providing superior customer service and assistance to all of Northwest Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Peoples Bank on their 94th anniversary. Their many great accomplishments and hard work throughout the years is worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING DR. LEON AND FAYE  
STEINBERG

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2004*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to Dr. Leon and Faye Steinberg as they are honored with the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas' Hank Greenspun Founders Award. The Steinbergs will be presented with this award on February 8, 2004, at the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas Champions of Freedom Dinner Gala.

The Hank Greenspun Founders Award honors those who have been instrumental in the creation, growth, and future of the Las Vegas Jewish community. The Steinbergs epitomize all of these qualities. They have spent most of their lives enriching the Jewish community and I would like to thank them for their contributions to Southern Nevada and our Nation.

The Steinbergs are originally from San Antonio, Texas, and like thousands of people each year moved to Las Vegas in 1958, where Leon became the first radiologist at Sunrise Hospital. From the first day of their arrival in Las Vegas they have volunteered to make our community a better place by serving in the leadership of their synagogue and helping meet the religious needs of our community. The Steinbergs also helped establish the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas, which raises awareness of the important contributions that the Southern Nevada Jewish Community has made to our state and country, and champions freedom and human rights around the world. Leon and Faye have been especially active in

building strong ties between Las Vegas and Israel, and have worked to bring relief to victims of terrorism in Israel.

I am pleased to call the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives to the well-deserved selection of Dr. Leon and Faye Steinberg for the Hank Greenspun Founders Award, and I thank them for having given so much of themselves to make the world a better place.

RULE PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DURING CONGRESSIONAL RECESS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2004*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, in March 2003, the House Small Business Committee convened a hearing to review a prospective rule from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This rule was intended to alter the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act.

During the past 2 years, HUD has been working to simplify the real estate settlement process. Their goal is to produce a uniform packaged pricing concept for consumers that incorporates all pricing elements including home inspections, title insurance, and interest rates.

During the March 2003 hearing, HUD officials testified to the Small Business Committee regarding different elements of this initially proposed rule. Much attention focused on the inadequacy of the economic impact study contained within the rule, particularly with respect to the effect on small businesses nationwide. After fielding questions from nearly every Member seated on the Committee, HUD agreed to give additional consideration and possible revision to their prospective rule.

It became evident during review of the initially proposed rule that it would be a step in the wrong direction. Consequently, it had no support from the real estate and mortgage industries, as well as little support from consumer advocacy groups.

During the process leading up to last spring's hearing, the Department of Housing and Urban Development was forthcoming about details of the rule prior to last spring's hearing. But since then, HUD has been virtually silent about changes, despite receiving tens-of-thousands of pages of comments during the extended review period.

Mr. Speaker, it troubles me that, as of late, HUD has been stonewalling Congressional inquiries by not responding to suggested comments, as indicated, and to questions asked during the hearing.

Surprisingly during the recent Congressional winter recess, and without notice to Congress regarding the nature of any changes, HUD submitted their final rule to the President's Office of Management and Budget in December 2003.

Now, executive privilege prevents Congress and the public from reviewing the final rule. While it is HUD's prerogative to forward this rule during Congress' recess, this instance clearly circumvents the intent of congressional

oversight for departmental and agency rule-making.

Depending on the contents of this final rule, the largest of the market lenders may seek to establish exclusive relationships with real estate service providers, such as home inspectors, title insurers, mortgage brokers, or real estate agents.

Home inspectors, for instance, would be forced to accept below market pricing for their inspection services, or face difficulty finding work.

Furthermore, large and small businesses alike would spend millions of dollars to change forms and reformat their disclosures, losing valuable time being retrained to present a product they already produce ethically and efficiently. This does not make sense.

Ultimately, consumers would be left with limited choices and higher prices. Smaller businesses unable to compete, due to a lack of sufficient resources, would be forced to close their doors.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage OMB to make the right decision on this delicate matter and to operate transparently and deliberately when considering rule proposals. The opportunity to purchase a home through easy and equitable transactions may be lost for many, should this final rule become published.

RECOGNIZING MS. DELSA BUSH AS  
THE NEW CHIEF OF POLICE OF  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2004*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent promotion of Ms. Delsa Bush as the new police chief of West Palm Beach, Florida. Chief Bush is the first African American and first woman to serve in this prestigious and demanding position.

Through honesty, hard work and determination, Chief Bush has risen from a childhood of poverty in the Mississippi Delta to a very prominent position in the criminal justice field. Though others might have given up when faced with the many challenges she has had to overcome, Delsa Bush never took her eyes off of her goal. As a result of her strong will and optimistic attitude, she graduated college, continued on to receive her Master's degree and is currently pursuing her Doctorate.

Mr. Speaker, as previously mentioned, Chief Bush is West Palm Beach's first black and first female police chief, as well as one of few black women police chiefs in America. Courage and excellence are just two of many words of praise that have been used to describe this remarkable law enforcement professional. Delsa Bush is an excellent role model and someone whom we can all be proud.

I am delighted that Chief Bush lives and works in my Congressional District. It is an honor and a privilege to represent such a great American. I say on behalf of the House of Representatives, Chief Bush, congratulations. You are a true hero!